

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS MADE TO PRESS ON CUBA BY ACTING SEC GEN OF RULING VENEZUELAN PARTY ACCION DEMOCRATICA, CARLOS CANACHE MATA, AFTER HIS WEEKLY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SEPT 6, AS CARRIED IN MORNING NACIONAL SEPT 7:

2. BEGIN QUOTE. Q. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER (CUBA)? -. VENEZUELA IS RESOLUTELY SUPPORTING THE COLOMBIAN AND COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE WITHIN THE OAS THE PROCESS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO SUSPENSION OF THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON CUBA TEN YEARS AGO. Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THE CAUSES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF THE SANCTIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY? A. IN OUR JUDGMENT, SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES NOW EXIST IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WHICH DIFFER RADICALLY FROM THOSE OF THE EARLY 1960'S. THE GOVERNMENT OF FIDEL CASTRO IS NOT INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF VENEZUELA NOR FOMENTING ARMED SUBVERSION IN ANY PART OF LATIN AMERICA, AND THIS IS JUSTIFICATION FOR OPENING THE ROAD FOR REINCORPORATION IN THE INTERAMERICAN COMMUNITY. THE UNANIMOUS CRITERION IS THAT AS THE RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA WAS A COLLECTIVE DECISION OF THE OAS, SO SHOULD ALSO BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

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SUCH RELATIONS. THE PROCESS NOW BEGUN IN THE OAS SHOULD END BEFORE DECEMBER, AND BY THEN, OR EARLIER, RELATIONS SHOULD HAVE

BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA. Q. ANY UNILATERAL DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS IS DISCARDED? A. IT IS DISCARDED BECAUSE IF IT WERE TO HAPPEN IT WOULD CAUSE GRAVE INJURY TO THE OAS, WHICH WITH ALL ITS FAULTS IS A USEFUL INSTRUMENT FOR THE BEST MANAGEMENT OF HEMISPHERIC POLITICS.

Q. BUT HAS NOT CUBA SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE OAS, AND WOULD NOT THIS

MAKE RELATIONS DIFFICULT? A. ONE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND CUBA AND THE INCORPORATION OF CUBA IN THE OAS. WHAT THE OAS IS GOING TO DECIDE ON IS NOT THE LATTER, WHICH IS A MATTER FOR AUTONOMOUS DECISION BY THE FIDEL CASTRO GOVERNMENT, BUT A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL LEAVE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS FREE TO RENEW THEIR RELATIONS WITH CUBA. Q. THERE IS A NEWS REPORT THAT THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT VOTES TO MAKE THAT DECISION IN THE OAS. WHAT DOES AD THINK ABOUT THAT? A. THE REPORT IN FACT SAYS THAT THERE ARE ONLY THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR, AND WE KNOW THAT TWO THIRDS, OR SIXTEEN VOTES ARE NEEDED. BUT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION IS THAT THE NEWS REPORT IS WRONG AND THAT THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT VOTES TO WIN. END QUOTE. FISHER

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